

REMARKS

Introduction

This Reply is in response to the Office Action of March 29, 2006. Reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the telephone call on April 24, 2006 in connection with the above-identified patent application during which the Examiner and the undersigned discussed the cited prior art references from the most recent Office Action and claims 1-21. In the telephone call, the Examiner agreed that the claims 4 and 8 of the above-identified patent application would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. These amendments have been made, so this patent application is in condition for allowance. Details regarding the present claim amendments are presented below.

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6.

The features of allowable claim 4 were incorporated into independent claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore allowable. Claims 2, 5, and 6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable because claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2, 5, and 6 have been amended to ensure that the language of claims 2, 5, and 6 is consistent with the new language in claim 1. Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled.



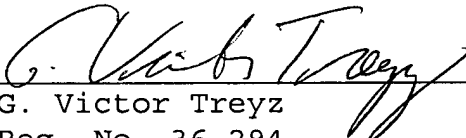
Claims 7 and 9-13

The features of allowable claim 8 were incorporated into independent claim 7. Claim 7 is therefore allowable. Claims 9-13 depend from claim 7 and are allowable because claim 7 is allowable. Claim 8 has been canceled.

Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 9-13 are patentable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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